You state that more primary schools are necessary for Kalkulam. Now, in the Kalkulam taluk, there are 5 departmental vernacular middle schools for males, 26 departmental primary schools for males, 2 private aided vernacular middle schools for males, 76 aided primary schools for males, and 8 unaided primary schools for males. Besides these, there are 3 departmental primary schools and 7 aided primary schools for girls. A report will be called for from the Director of Public Instruction on your suggestion.

As regards the Kotanallur boys' school building, your representation that one-half of the cost should be borne by Government is noted for consideration.

As regards the delay in the sanction of estimates referred to by you, arrangements will be made to minimise such delay.

About the conversion of Malayalam schools into Tamil schools, what the G. O. on the subject says is that, if the majority of students in any school are Tamils in the proportion of 2 to 1, such an institution may be converted into a Tamil school. In certain localities there would be separate Tamil schools and Malayalam schools, while in certain other localities both Malayalam and Tamil would be taught in one and the same school, there being separate sections for the purpose. In Tamil schools in the Tamil-speaking areas, Malayalam is taught as a second language in Classes III and IV of primary schools. The Government are following a principle and cannot go against the provisions of the G. O. in this respect.

Re. the Perumchilampu road, some work has been done this year and the Chief Engineer says that the whole work will be completed within another year.

Re. the bridge you have referred to, an estimate is under preparation.

With respect to the Tatikkarankonam-Mekkode road, the maintenance is gradually rising. It has risen to Rs. 140 per mile this year. In regard to the Mekkode-Thuckalai road, Government have an estimate ready and work will be started next year. As regards the Mekkode-Kulasekharam road, the cost of maintenance is Rs. 200. Orders will be issued by the Chief Engineer to the Division Officer to keep these roads in good condition.

145. Some pressing problems for the solution of the P. W. D., Land Revenue, Agricultural and Educational Departments.

Mr. Kanakku Sankaranarayanan Krishnan (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) dwelt at length on the responsibility of the P. W. D. and the Government to improve the means of communication in the State, and complained about the indifference shown in the discharge of their duties in that respect. He said that the northern taluks in particular suffered badly in the matter of means of communication.

In regard to the needs of his taluk, the Member prayed that the following works be attended to:—

(1) Construction of bridges on the Tiruvalla-Mavelikara road.
(2) Improvement of the Tiruvalla-Itinjillam road.
(3) Improvement of the Puliyur-Mannar village road.
(4) Improvement of the road from Chengannur to Pandanad.

With reference to the Land Revenue Department, the Member complained that lands registered prior to the original survey and improved upon and enjoyed by the holders, were being treated as *porambokes*, as a result of the incorrect measurements recorded in the survey. He said that it was a known fact that the survey and settlement records did not often tally and that the surveyors and classifiers who prepared those records did so without taking the trouble to make any local verification. The result was that the people were being punished for alleged encroachments on Government land and fined heavily. He observed that registered lands bordering rivers, canals, etc., were mostly treated as *poramboke*. The reason for this was that, under the demarcation rules of 1058, stones demarcating such *porambokes* were planted a little into the interior of registered lands on either side so as to prevent their being washed away by water. That fact was ignored now and the whole land lying between the stones and the water line was treated as *poramboke*. The Member complained that the Land Records Maintenance Department had no power to rectify such mistakes and that it was difficult to get the

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necessary relief by means of civil suits. He therefore suggested that the power to rectify settlement and survey mistakes might be conferred on the Land Revenue Commissioner.

He next complained against the issue of separate demand notices for properties included in one patta and requested that orders be issued for only one notice being sent in such cases. He suggested that the security deposits of Proverthicars, etc., be invested in banks at 9 per cent. interest and that the pay of the low-paid subordinates of the Revenue Department be further increased. The Member also suggested that stringent orders be issued to work the Land Conservancy Regulation and rules in a just and humane manner.

Taking up next the Education Department for review, the Member observed that the number of young men holding certificates of qualification was on the increase every year and that the ranks of even graduates were swelling. Those young men found it very difficult to earn a living, and, to his mind, the only way of solving the problem was to introduce some handicraft in the curricula of studies such as weaving and spinning.

In speaking about English schools, the Member submitted that, till at least the Form III standard, the medium of instruction should be Malayalam in respect of all subjects except the English language. The pupils should be permitted to answer examination papers also in their mother language. Such a step would help to promote the advancement of the vernacular.

The introduction of manual training in Malayalam schools was not productive of any substantial result in the direction of vocational training. The Member therefore suggested that steps be taken to spread a system of education which would enable the recipient to turn to some sort of occupation in later life. The Government had often stated that it was their avowed policy to give due encouragement to the vernaculars, and the Member said that all that he prayed for was to give practical effect to that policy.

Finally, the Member represented the need for an agricultural demonstration farm at Parumala and for effective steps being taken to extirpate the insect pests incidental to paddy and cocoanut cultivation.

President's reply.—The Director will be asked to examine the scheme for the introduction of vocational education referred to by you. As regards the opening of an agricultural demonstration farm at Parumala, the Director of Agriculture will be consulted as to its necessity. He will also be asked to render the necessary further help in the matter of removing the insect pest and other difficulties under which agriculturists labour.

I understand that at present several cases of patent settlement mistakes are being reported to Government and the mistakes are being rectified in individual cases. The power to order the rectification of such mistakes now vests in the Government. The question whether that power may be delegated to the Land Revenue Commissioner will be considered.

Orders will also be issued to the Land Revenue Commissioner to see that the Land Records Maintenance and Land Conservancy Rules are worked in practice with care and moderation.

As regards the Tiruvalla road and the bridges thereon you say that only three-fourth of a mile yet remains to be made cartable. The Chief Engineer tells me that the matter is under correspondence with the Executive Engineer and that an estimate is expected from him.

146. Local needs.

Mr. C. Raman Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Quilon taluk) pressed on the attention of Government the urgency of the following works:—

1. Metalling the road from Kavanattu bazaar to Aravillakadavu, west Quilon.

The Member said that the above was a sandy lane 2 furlongs long and 15 to 20 feet broad and largely used for goods traffic. It connected the Aravilla landing place where there was a Sirkar ferry with Kavanattu bazaar, which was one of the important thoroughfares of Quilon. Two great obstacles in the way of converting that lane into a road were its steep ascents and its sandy character.

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